

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1717

To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 12, 1999

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mothers and Newborns  
5 Health Insurance Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF LOW-INCOME, UNIN-**  
2 **SURED PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER A STATE**  
3 **CHILD HEALTH PLAN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXI of the Social Security  
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at  
6 the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 2111. OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF LOW-INCOME, UNIN-**  
8 **SURED PREGNANT WOMEN.**

9 “(a) OPTIONAL COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any  
10 other provision of this title, a State child health plan may  
11 provide for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance for  
12 targeted low-income pregnant women in accordance with  
13 this section.

14 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

15 “(1) PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—The  
16 term ‘pregnancy-related assistance’ has the meaning  
17 given the term ‘child health assistance’ in section  
18 2110(a) as if any reference to targeted low-income  
19 children were a reference to targeted low-income  
20 pregnant women, except that the assistance shall be  
21 limited to services related to pregnancy (which in-  
22 clude prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services)  
23 and to other conditions that may complicate preg-  
24 nancy and shall not include pre-pregnancy services  
25 and supplies.

1           “(2)   TARGETED   LOW-INCOME   PREGNANT  
 2   WOMAN.—The term ‘targeted low-income pregnant  
 3   woman’ has the meaning given the term ‘targeted  
 4   low-income child’ in section 2110(b) as if any ref-  
 5   erence to a child were deemed a reference to a  
 6   woman during pregnancy and through the end of the  
 7   month in which the 60-day period (beginning on the  
 8   last day of her pregnancy) ends.

9           “(c)   REFERENCES   TO   TERMS   AND   SPECIAL  
 10 RULES.—In the case of, and with respect to, a State pro-  
 11 viding for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance to tar-  
 12 geted low-income pregnant women under subsection (a),  
 13 the following special rules apply:

14           “(1) Any reference in this title (other than sub-  
 15 section (b)) to a targeted low-income child is deemed  
 16 to include a reference to a targeted low-income preg-  
 17 nant woman.

18           “(2) Any such reference to child health assist-  
 19 ance with respect to such women is deemed a ref-  
 20 erence to pregnancy-related assistance.

21           “(3) Any such reference to a child is deemed a  
 22 reference to a woman during pregnancy and the pe-  
 23 riod described in subsection (b)(2).

1           “(4) The medicaid applicable income level is  
2       deemed a reference to the income level established  
3       under section 1902(l)(2)(A).

4           “(5) Subsection (a) of section 2103 (relating to  
5       required scope of health insurance coverage) shall  
6       not apply insofar as a State limits coverage to serv-  
7       ices described in subsection (b)(1) and the reference  
8       to such section in section 2105(a)(1) is deemed not  
9       to require, in such case, compliance with the require-  
10      ments of section 2103(a).

11          “(6) There shall be no exclusion of benefits for  
12      services described in subsection (b)(1) based on any  
13      pre-existing condition, and no waiting period (includ-  
14      ing a waiting period to carry out section  
15      2102(b)(3)(C)) shall apply.

16          “(d) NO IMPACT ON ALLOTMENTS.—Nothing in this  
17      section shall be construed as affecting the amount of any  
18      initial allotment provided to a State under section  
19      2104(b).

20          “(e) APPLICATION OF FUNDING RESTRICTIONS.—  
21      The coverage under this section (and the funding of such  
22      coverage) is subject to the restrictions of section  
23      2105(c).”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
 2 2102(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 3 1397bb(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i);

5 (2) by striking the period at the end of clause

6 (ii) and inserting “, and”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(iii) may not apply a waiting period  
 9 (including a waiting period to carry out  
 10 paragraph (3)(C)) in the case of a targeted  
 11 low-income child who is pregnant.”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 13 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of  
 14 the enactment of this Act and shall apply to allotments  
 15 under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 16 1397aa et seq.) for all fiscal years.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN BORN**  
 18 **TO WOMEN RECEIVING PREGNANCY-RE-**  
 19 **LATED ASSISTANCE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2111 of the Social Secu-  
 21 rity Act, as added by section 2, is amended by adding at  
 22 the end the following:

23 “(f) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN  
 24 BORN TO WOMEN RECEIVING PREGNANCY-RELATED AS-  
 25 SISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this

1 title, if a child is born to a targeted low-income pregnant  
 2 woman who was receiving pregnancy-related assistance  
 3 under this section on the date of the child’s birth, the child  
 4 shall be deemed to have applied for child health assistance  
 5 under the State child health plan on the date of such birth,  
 6 to have been found eligible for such assistance on such  
 7 date, and to remain eligible for such assistance until the  
 8 child attains 1 year of age.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
 10 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
 11 ment of this Act and shall apply to allotments under title  
 12 XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.)  
 13 for all fiscal years.

14 **SEC. 4. EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR ADMIN-**  
 15 **ISTRATIVE COSTS RELATED TO OUTREACH**  
 16 **AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.**

17 Section 1931(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 18 1396u–1(h)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking the subsection heading and in-  
 20 serting “INCREASED FEDERAL MATCHING RATE  
 21 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS RELATED TO OUT-  
 22 REACH AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS”;

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “eligibility de-  
 24 terminations” and all that follows and inserting “de-  
 25 terminations of the eligibility of children and preg-

1       nant women for benefits under the State plan under  
 2       this title or title XXI, outreach to children and preg-  
 3       nant women likely to be eligible for such benefits,  
 4       and such other outreach- and eligibility-related ac-  
 5       tivities as the Secretary may approve.”;

6               (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “and ending  
 7       with fiscal year 2000”; and

8               (4) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the  
 9       following:

10              “(4) ENCOURAGING USE OF LOCAL AND COM-  
 11       MUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN OUTREACH AND  
 12       ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall es-  
 13       tablish a procedure under which, if a State does not  
 14       otherwise obligate the amounts made available under  
 15       this subsection, local and community-based public or  
 16       nonprofit private organizations (including local and  
 17       county governments, public health departments,  
 18       community health centers, children’s hospitals, and  
 19       disproportionate share hospitals) may seek to have  
 20       administrative costs relating to outreach and enroll-  
 21       ment of children and pregnant women under this  
 22       title and title XXI treated as administrative costs of  
 23       a State described in section 1903(a)(7), if such or-  
 24       ganizations have the permission of the State in-  
 25       volved. A State may require such an organization to

- 1 provide payment of such amounts as the State would
- 2 otherwise be responsible for in order to obtain pay-
- 3 ment under this paragraph.”.

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